



REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held August 9, 2004.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Council members Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Edward V.J. Putens was unable to attend because of illness.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Robert A. Manzi, City Solicitor; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in honor of residents Frances Anne Bates, Lydia Price Fominaya, and Charles Felton, Jr.; and former residents Maurice Love, Clifford Simonson, and Juliet Tilghman Berry Slaughter, who was one of the last of the Greenbelt Pioneers who came to Greenbelt as an adult. The Mayor then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Davis asked that item #19 (Proposed Federal Capital Improvement Program) be removed from the consent agenda. Ms. Mach moved that the consent agenda be approved with that change. Mr. Herling seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Regular Meeting, July 19, 2004
- Work Session, August 2, 2004

Approved as presented.

AWARD OF PURCHASE – CNG SEDANS: Council approved the purchase of two Honda Civic CNG Sedans from Herson's Honda of Rockville at a total cost \$40,298, for use in Community Development and Administration.

REAPPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY GROUP: Council reappointed Doug Mangum to a new three-year term as an adult member of the Youth Advisory Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Roberts asked that Appointments to Advisory Groups be added to the agenda as item #21. It was moved by Mr. Herling and seconded by Ms. Mach that the agenda be approved with that addition. The motion carried 4-0.

PRESENTATIONS: Liz Park, Director of Greenbelt CARES, introduced the City's two new Crisis Intervention Counselors, Sara Phillips and Shireen Blair, who were welcomed by Council.

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2005 CAPITAL PROJECTS BUDGET: The Mayor read the agenda comments and announced the public hearing was open. There being no one who wished to speak, Mayor Davis declared the public hearing to be closed.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: There were none.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Executive Session of May 3, 2004: Mr. Roberts moved that the minutes of the executive session of the City Council held Wednesday, May 3, 2004, be approved as presented. He further requested that the minutes of this meeting reflect that the Council met in executive session at 9:25 p.m. in the Library of the Municipal Building. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 10-508 (a)(1) of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland to discuss a specific personnel matter, the performance evaluation and compensation of the City Manager. Ms. Mach seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Herling - yes

Ms. Mach - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

Executive Session of June 2, 2004: Mr. Roberts moved that the minutes of the executive session of the City Council held Wednesday, June 2, 2004, be approved as presented. He further requested that the minutes of this meeting reflect that the Council met in executive session at 8:02 p.m. in the Library of the Municipal Building. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 10-508 (a)(1) of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland to discuss a specific personnel matter, the performance evaluation and compensation of the City Manager. Mr. Herling seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Herling - yes

Ms. Mach - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

Executive Session of August 2, 2004: Mr. Roberts moved that the minutes of the executive session of the City Council held Monday, August 2, 2004, be approved as presented. He further requested that the minutes of this meeting reflect that the

Council met in executive session at 7:20 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Municipal Building. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 10-508 (a)(8) of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland to consult with staff about pending litigation against a City police officer. Ms. Mach seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Herling - yes

Ms. Mach - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. McLaughlin announced the dedication of the enhanced bus stop at Greenway Center would occur at 7:30 p.m. on August 18. Mayor Davis suggested notifying the Public Safety Advisory Committee. Mr. McLaughlin said County Fire Chief Blackwell resigned to go to Anne Arundel County. He said information about this year's Gorgeous Prince George's County Program had been received, with a deadline of October 16 for applications for planting or community beautification materials. He said the information would be sent to the homeowner associations. He also reported activity has been picking up in readiness for the Labor Day Festival.

Mr. Herling said the Arts Center had completed cleaning out the Jaycee Club House. Mr. McLaughlin said the City would now have to inspect it and evaluate its condition prior to further consideration of use by the Disabled Veterans.

Mayor Davis raised two items reported in a recent Park Ranger report. She asked if the police were doing anything about the motorized scooters that had been reported at Schrom Hills Park, since they are dangerous. Mr. McLaughlin replied that they are illegal on City property; the police are currently giving warnings but will soon shift to citations. The Mayor asked about unauthorized soccer playing at Schrom Hills; she said Hyattsville is trying to restrict this activity, with the result that Greenbelt may see more of it. Mr. McLaughlin responded that this has happened before, and the City will take whatever measures are necessary.

Mayor Davis asked about the information she had been given regarding expansion of the Metro service yard into BARC property. Mr. McLaughlin said the director of BARC knew nothing about this but had said there might be some confusion with the fact that BARC had just finished completing the transfer of the existing service yard to WMATA. The Mayor said her information was that WMATA is moving a heavy machinery repair operation from Brentwood to Greenbelt. She asked if the City could require a traffic analysis and site plan. Mr. McLaughlin said he would look into it.

Ms. Mach said she appreciated receiving the City Manager's "top ten" project list and asked if it could be noted when a project moved off the list. She added that she had attended the last meeting of the COG Air Quality Committee.

Mayor Davis said she, Mr. Herling, and Ms. Mach had attended a reception at NASA/Goddard welcoming new director Edward Weiler on July 22. She said she attended the COG Board retreat from July 23-25 and spoke at Goddard Community Day last weekend.

LEGISLATION

An Ordinance to Amend the Capital Projects Budget for Fiscal Year 2005

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Ms. Mach introduced the ordinance for second reading and moved its adoption. Mr. Herling seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Herling - yes

Ms. Mach - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

The ordinance was declared adopted (Ordinance No. 1249, Book 12.)

A Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of Certain Goods and Services from Various Vendors as Enumerated Herein When Total Fiscal Year Purchases from Each Vendor Exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts introduced the resolution for second reading and moved its adoption. Mr. Herling seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Herling - yes

Ms. Mach - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 976, Book 8.)

HUD SERVICE COORDINATOR FOR MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING GRANT APPLICATION: The Mayor read the agenda comments. David Moran, Assistant City Manager, and Liz Park, Director, Greenbelt CARES, answered several questions on the budget and proposal. They said there was no matching requirement on the grant and that, once funded, projects generally continued to receive funding. They credited Christal Batey, Community Resource Advocate, with having identified the opportunity. The Mayor thanked them and Ms. Batey for pursuing it. It was moved by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Roberts that Council approve the grant application that had been submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The motion passed 4-0.

AWARD OF BID – RECYCLING TRUCK: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Bill Phelan, Assistant Director, Public Works, answered several questions about the vehicle and clarified that it was not the existing recycling truck that would be disposed of. It was moved by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Herling that Council award Bid Number 2004-4 to Granturk Equipment Company of Bridgeport, Pennsylvania, at a cost of \$165,975. The motion passed 4-0.

CITY CONTRIBUTION GROUP PRACTICE (CRAB COMMUNICATION, 6/18/04): Mayor Davis read the agenda comments and added that this type of situation was difficult because people's expression of their faith was often spontaneous but at the same time could make other people feel uncomfortable and less willing to participate in City-sponsored activities. Mr. Herling suggested recitation of the Community Pledge as another possibility, in addition to silent meditation or a "thought for the day," for opening a meeting without religious references. Ms. Mach made a motion to approve sending the draft letter, with grammatical corrections, to all Contribution Groups. Mr. Herling seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

POLICY AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL MUNICIPAL POLICY: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Council had no amendments to propose to the policy.

PROPOSED FEDERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR FY 2005-2010: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments and said she had asked to remove the item from the consent agenda because she and Mr. Putens questioned whether the City still stood in opposition to the route selected by Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) for the reorientation of Soil Conservation Road. Mr. McLaughlin pointed out a letter of July 22, 2003, which he said represented the last letter that had been written stating the City's position. Mayor Davis said she was concerned that Goddard had attempted to be responsive to community groups in its decisions and that a better City response would be constructive criticism of the selected route rather than categorical opposition to any change of route. Mr. Roberts disagreed, saying he recalled the Council action in which former Councilmember Thomas White had made the motion to reengineer the existing road. He said he still believed that to be viable, was still concerned with the preservation of the area, and did not think the City should change its position. Ms. Mach asked if anything had changed over the last year that would suggest the City should reexamine its position.

Mr. McLaughlin gave a quick review of the history of the project for the benefit of the newer Councilmembers. Mr. Roberts said at this point it is an "old issue." He said, "They've made their selection, and there's no sense beating a dead horse." He said his main goal was to register concern with the preservation of the forest but that he thought opposition to the change was the best way to do that. He added that if the new Council wished to take a different position from the prior one, it would be necessary for the new Councilmembers to study the issue. Mayor Davis said she would like to reword the City opinion to fit the current situation rather than getting stuck in the past. She said she would prefer to express concern with the woodlands and ask for more information on the environmental impacts without making an explicit statement regarding opposition or approval. She said she was not proposing that the City say it had no objections; rather, she would say the City has concerns. Mr. McLaughlin said this letter would be addressed to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), not

to GSFC, and he thought it would be possible to be positive about their program while still reserving the City's position on Soil Conservation Road.

Sheldon Goldberg, 7848 Jacobs Drive, said the Greenbelt East Advisory Committee had never heard exactly what footprint would be taken by the route GSFC had chosen. He agreed with the Mayor's proposed approach of stressing concern with the loss of the woods rather than opposition to the road realignment as such.

Mayor Davis said Council would like to see what staff would come up with by way of revised language. It was moved by Mr. Herling that the City submit a revised letter to NCPC that supports the Federal CIP, with revision to the statement expressing the City's reservations about the GSFC Road Modification project that involves the reconfiguration of Soil Conservation Road. It was further moved that the letter state the City's interest in being informed on any road renovation projects planned for BARC. Ms. Mach seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings. Mayor Davis noted that the stakeholder meeting with NASA/GSFC would probably need to be put off until October or November. She suggested adding Council's annual meeting with GATE and a stakeholder meeting with the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation to the list for scheduling.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Herling. The motion carried 4-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of August 9, 2004, at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Gallagher
City Clerk

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held August 9, 2004.@

Judith F. Davis
Mayor